

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended) A device for placing a reinforcing tape in a tissue of the human body, comprising an introducer including:

an elongated flexible body extending along a longitudinal axis and having two ends, each of said ends provided with a pulling means;

a cavity provided in said flexible body between said ends for receiving a reinforcing tape, the cavity defined by walls within the body; and

means for cutting the body into two portions separable by pulling on the pulling means, the cutting means comprising at least one aperture provided in the flexible body into the cavity and extending transversally to the longitudinal axis, the aperture affecting more than half of the circumference of the walls of the cavity, so as to leave only a connecting wall between portions of the flexible body delimited by the aperture, the aperture being constructed and arranged for passage of a cutting tool between the tape received in the cavity and the connecting wall,

wherein the pulling means comprises semi-rigid needles integral with the ends of the elongated body.

18. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, wherein the aperture is constructed and arranged to allow placement of the tape in the cavity.

19. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, wherein the cutting means comprises at least two apertures positioned facing each other.

20. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, wherein the walls defining the cavity have a series of

perforations for sterilization.

Claim 21 (canceled).

22. (currently amended) The device according to claim 17, additionally comprising a tape freely positioned inside the cavity, wherein the aperture is constructed and arranged to allow placement of the tape in the cavity.

23. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, additionally comprising an elongated perforator guide or trocar, having a first end arranged for introduction into the body of a patient and an opposite end provided with a handle.

24. (previously presented) The device according to claim 23, wherein the perforator guide has a portion having an arcuate shape in a plane.

25. (previously presented) The device according to claim 24, wherein the arcuate portion of the perforator guide extends over an angular sector larger than 140°.

26. (previously presented) The device according to claim 25, wherein the arcuate portion of the perforator guide extends over an angular sector between 150° and 170°.

27. (previously presented) The device according to claim 25, wherein the arcuate portion of the perforator guide has a radius of curvature between 30 and 60 mm for a portion of the perforator guide extending between the handle and the first end.

28. (previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the radius of curvature is between 40 and 50 mm.

29. (previously presented) The device according to claim 24, wherein the perforator guide has a helicoidal shape at the first end.

30. (previously presented) The device according to claim 29, wherein the shape is a portion of a helicoidal coil extending over an angle between 180° and 360°.

31. (previously presented) The device according to claim

30, wherein the shape is a portion of a helicoidal coil extending over an angle between 255° and 270°.

32. (previously presented) The device according to claim 30, wherein the coil of the perforator guide has a radius of curvature between 20 mm and 40 mm with a pitch between 15 mm and 25 mm.

33. (previously presented) The device according to claim 24, further comprising a removable tubular sleeve with a complementary shape to that of the perforator guide, constructed and arranged for engagement onto the perforator guide and to remain in the body of the patient after removing the perforator guide, so as to define a tunnel for the passage of pulling means of the introducer.

34. (previously presented) The device according to claim 33, wherein the tubular sleeve has a length greater than a useful length of the perforator guide and comprises a side aperture for placement of the perforator guide, the side aperture being located at a distance from a free end of the sleeve less than or equal to the useful length of the perforator guide.